



National Centers of Excellence In Women's Health

A Program of the Office on Women's Health in the US Department of Health and Human Services

National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health Second National Forum *Understanding Health Difference and Disparities in Women – Closing the Gap* May 13-14, 2003

The Office on Women's Health, within the Department of Health and Human Services, is planning a Second National Forum on the National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health (CoE) to be held at the Sheraton Premiere Hotel in Vienna, Virginia, on May 13-14, 2003. The Forum will share information and findings among CoEs and with representatives of other academic health centers interested in adopting the CoE model or its components.

The Office on Women's Health established the National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health program in 1996. The CoE program mandate is to establish and evaluate a new model health care system that unites women's health research, medical training, clinical care, public health education, community outreach, and the promotion of women in academic medicine around a common mission – improving the health status of diverse women across the life span.

There are currently thirteen CoEs: Boston University Medical Center; University of California at Los Angeles; University of California, San Francisco; Harvard University; University of Illinois at Chicago; Indiana University School of Medicine; Magee-Womens Hospital, University of Pittsburgh; MCP Hahnemann University (doing business as Drexel University); University of Michigan Health System; University of Puerto Rico; Tulane and Xavier Universities of Louisiana; University of Washington, Seattle; and University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The goal of these Centers is to serve as catalysts in their communities and across the nation for addressing the mental and physical health needs of women with a comprehensive and integrated model. Another goal of the CoE program is to promote multi-disciplinary networking among researchers and clinicians, as well as with consumers, community groups, and professional organizations.

To aid in the accomplishment of these goals, the National Forum will showcase the National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health, highlight the multi-site qualitative and quantitative CoE evaluation study, and present lessons learned since the program's inception in 1996. Unique to this Forum will be a research symposium and research poster sessions highlighting the Forum theme, "*Understanding Health Difference and Disparities in Women – Closing the Gap.*" The Forum will feature a dynamic luncheon speaker, plenary sessions, workshops, and a networking reception, each with a focus on eliminating health disparities. The Forum will also feature an informational question and answer teleconference about the CoE program and CoE contract process (May 13, 2003, 4:00 p.m. – 5:20 p.m. Eastern Time) as well as a workshop featuring presentations by staff of the new National Community Centers of Excellence in Women's Health.

The primary target audience for this Forum is university, community hospital, and academic medical center staff working to develop sound clinical, medical research, and training programs in women's health. The second target audience is other associated medical or managed care affiliated individuals exploring the creation of women's health programs.

We look forward to your participation in this important event. The Forum includes a **Call for Abstracts**, an opportunity to showcase your women's health research, education, or evaluation efforts. **Abstracts are due by February 14, 2003. Current information about the Forum, teleconference, and abstract submission is available at <http://www.4women.gov/COE/forums.htm> or by calling Michele Saunders at (617) 432-4371.** Additional information about the Forum will be included on the website as it becomes available.